



The Types of Cars *(all the kinds of cars explained)* <http://thetypesofcars.com/>

Thanks for visiting! We have done our best explaining the different types of cars and trucks that exist. From body styles to engine types, hopefully you find all the information you are seeking. If you are looking for car brands, makes, and models, please check out carbrandshq.com.

Sedan

What is a Sedan? For many people, the term sedan summons images of a boxy four-door vehicle. This is because motorists usually describe cars that have four doors and two rows of seats as sedans. According to industry experts, this is not always true. The term sedan refers to a vehicle's interior volume or space in accordance with standards set by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). If the vehicle has more than 33 cubic feet, the SAE designates that car as a sedan. Therefore, it's possible for a car to have two doors and still be considered a sedan because it has the requisite interior space. In some cases, auto manufacturers use the term coupe in the name of the vehicle to evoke images of sleek automobile with sporty handling, but the car is actually a sedan. Example of a Sedan: **Honda Accord**



Coupe

When car enthusiasts think of a coupe, they usually visualize a car with aerodynamic styling, one or two rows of passenger seats and two doors. Coupe is a popular marketing term, but it is also a specific category of automobile. The body style, number of doors or rows of seats does not determine whether a car is classified as a coupe. The descriptor "coupe" is assigned to vehicles whose interior space or volume is less than 33 cubic feet. This standard is in accordance with guidelines set by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). Regardless of the number of doors or seats, a car that meets this SAE criteria is officially designated a coupe. Example of a Coupe: **Nissan Altima Coupe**



Station Wagon

The term station wagon traces the lineage of its name to the vehicles used to transport luggage from the train depot to the manor house. Often made with wooden sides, these vehicles also came to be called "woodies." Later models used faux wood side panels to pay homage to this classic moniker. These vehicles became an iconic symbol of the post-war baby boom.



2012 Outback S

Today, a station wagon is a car model whose roof doesn't drop down after the rear seat to form a trunk. The roof extends the full length of the vehicle. This design produces an interior space normally used for storage or third row seating. A station wagon generally has four doors and a bottom-hinged rear gate similar to that of a pickup truck.

Most Popular Wagon: **Subaru Outback**

Hybrid

A hybrid is a vehicle that derives its power from two sources. These power sources are typically a combination of a bank of batteries and a gasoline engine. Recent technological advancements have led to the introduction of diesel hybrids vehicles. Automakers can make hybrids of any model of vehicle, including cars, trucks and SUVs.

The concept for most hybrids is similar. The engine charges the batteries and provides power under peak load conditions, such as quick accelerations. The batteries, in turn, propel the vehicle when power demands are minimal or constant such as short trips or once the vehicle reaches highway cruising speed. In some recent models regenerative power from the brakes can charge the batteries. The hybrid system is designed to automatically switch from one power source to the other as required. There are generally 3 types of hybrids: parallel hybrids, series hybrids, and mild hybrids.

Most Popular Hybrid: **Toyota Prius**



Roadster

What is a roadster? If you are going to drop the top and cruise a scenic highway, you need to be behind the controls of a high performance roadster. "Speedster" and "roadster" are similar terms used to describe a two-door, two-seat car without a fixed top or side weather protection. This open-air vehicle usually has only one row of seats with a luggage compartment in the rear that may or may not be configured into a rumble seat. A roadster typically has a "ragtop," but this design feature is changing as manufacturers are now producing cars with removable or retractable hard tops. While a hard top isn't a traditional design element of roadsters, modern car designs are expanding and redefining this classic category of vehicle with sporty handling.

Example of a Roadster: **Nissan 370Z**



Minivan

What is a minivan? Minivans are the ubiquitous symbol of the American suburban soccer mom. This versatile automobile is the latest and most successful reiteration of the personal van. It provides substantial cargo space and passenger-carrying capacity. Outside the United States, these vehicles are called multipurpose vehicles or people carriers. Minivans are front-wheel drive vehicles that are typically 65 inches in height and slightly longer than the standard four-door family



SUV

The design concept behind the sport utility vehicle (SUV) was to combine the power and towing capability of a full-size truck with the passenger and cargo capacity of a minivan. As a result, the original models of SUVs were large, powerful machines. With today's interest in fuel economy, there are numerous scaled down and hybrid versions available. SUVs were typically equipped with a four-wheel drive capability to handle off-road terrain, ...



Crossover

Most vehicles fit into one category. A crossover combines the characteristics of two or more vehicle classifications in one automobile. Crossover is more often than not a descriptor applied to a small sport utility vehicle (SUV). Original SUV designs were based on a truck chassis. Newer scaled-down models are built on car frames. This enables SUVs to have the handling characteristics of a car as opposed to a truck. This ...



Convertible

Convertibles are simply cars without roofs. They can be referred to as "ragtops" because of the vehicle's fabric-covered retractable roof. The car has side windows that you can raise along with the roof to create a weather-proof vehicle interior. A convertible has side windows with a roll up and down design. This characteristic differentiates a convertible from an open-air roadster. A convertible roof is attached to an articulated frame that ...



Hatchback

A hatchback is a car that has a rear top hinged, liftgate instead of typical trunk space and hood. This rear door is similar to that found on a station wagon. These cars were pioneered in the 1930s and 40s and become popular in the 1950s with the introduction of the Aston Martin DB2.

A hatchback is designed for the efficient use of available space. Whereas a trunk is inaccessible from the passenger compartment, a hatchback is open. While this open design enables you to readily access stored items, it also permits passersby to view the contents of your storage area. Another issue is that items not properly secured can enter the passenger compartment if you need to stop the car suddenly. More recent model hatchbacks now include a safety shelf as standard equipment.

Example of a Hatchback: **Nissan Versa**



Parallel Hybrid

In a parallel hybrid, the vehicle has an internal combustion engine and an electric motor. The two systems are connected to the drivetrain by a differential gear. When one source is powering the vehicle, the other source idles and rotates freely by the use of a one-way clutch. Each power source is capable of independently propelling the vehicle. This is the most common design used to create hybrid vehicles. The system automatically determines which source it will use based upon the power demands as you drive. These vehicles have smaller battery packs due to the fact that the engine can recharge the batteries. They deliver their best fuel economy during highway driving.



Example of a parallel hybrid vehicle: 2012 Hyundai Sonata